

August 2014

## The Extinguisher

“Putting out the news”

Ashley McDonald, Editor in Chief



### Birthdays

Kevin Defeo 8/2

Dale Bilbrey 8/3

Joe Bell 8/6

Wesley Slager 8/8

Jeremy Spivey 8/12

Wayne Reed 8/14

Karl Daigle 8/15

Ryan Battle 8/18

Jamie Bigelow 8/20

Raymond Smith 8/20

Steve Ellison 8/23

Mike Mitchell 8/25

David Branch 8/28



Don't forget to schedule your Health Evaluation.

Register online at [myinteractivehealth.com](http://myinteractivehealth.com).

## MFRD LAUNCHES UPGRADE IN MEDICAL SERVICES

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department announced the launch of upgraded medical response services July 28 at MFRD Headquarters in the presence of Rutherford County Emergency Medical Services, city leaders, and fire department personnel.

The launch marked the beginning of MFRD's move to provide basic life support (BLS) services to the citizens and visitors of Murfreesboro. Until now, the department has been operating at a medical first responder level. MFRD is now the first fire department in Rutherford County to provide BLS to its citizens.

In October 2013, MFRD began the rigorous training and credentialing process with the assistance of Rutherford County EMS. Each of the department's licensed EMT-IVs, AEMTs, and Paramedics were required to complete a general knowledge written test, practical skills evaluation, eight hours of clinical training and evaluation on an ambulance with Field Training Officers, and eight hours of medical in-service training.

New protocols for treatment were developed and advanced assessment equipment was purchased and placed on all fire apparatus. MFRD's credentialed personnel will now be able to perform tasks such as testing blood sugar and oxygen levels and administering medication to patients who complain of chest pain and other symptoms of a heart attack.

Although MFRD will be providing a higher level of care, Rutherford County EMS will continue to provide patient transport.

"It is clear that both Rutherford County EMS and MFRD have a common goal of providing the best care for the community," said Assistant Chief-Medical Services Kim Lawson. "We are very appreciative of the support we've received from Rutherford County EMS, our city and county leaders, and most of all, our employees."



(L to R): Shift Commander Tim Swann, Fire/Medical Training Coordinator Nicole Miller, Assistant Chief Kaye Jernigan, Deputy Chief Roger Toombs, Assistant Chief Kim Lawson, Councilmember Rick LaLance, Assistant Chief Allen Swader, Mayor Shane McFarland, City Manager Rob Lyons, Rutherford County EMS Director of Education and Planning Randy White, and Assistant City Manager Jim Crumley.

## MFRD'S FIRST FEMALE FIREFIGHTER RETIRES AFTER 32 YEARS

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department's first female Firefighter retired July 20 after 32 years of service. Mary Madding began her career with MFRD in July 1982.

Madding recalls how it felt to be the only female Firefighter at MFRD. "It was tough being the only female in a traditionally all-male career," she said. "I found it hard to fit in and always felt like I had to work harder to prove myself."

She says her worst day at the fire department was her first day. "I remember I got sent to the engine and told to pick off tools. They said not to come back until I got them. I went to the engine and I didn't know one tool from the other. I never felt so overwhelmed."

When asked how she overcame that feeling, she credits retired Captain Ronald Jones. "He was so good to me. He told me, 'Don't worry, you'll get it. We'll work on it together and you will learn it.'"

Her best day at the fire department was in August 2011 when Kaye Jernigan was promoted to Assistant Chief. "Maybe, I should say it was my proudest day," said Madding. "It was awesome to see a fellow female rise through the ranks in the department."

Madding, who remembers when engine companies were only allowed to leave the station to respond to a fire, says it is much different now. "We are out in our territories a lot now, with more visibility in the community. I think this is one of the most positive changes I've seen since I've been at the department." Madding said she has always loved participating in community and public relations events, meeting the citizens she serves.

"Working for MFRD, I've had the opportunity to meet a lot of people, create many relationships, and watch a lot of kids grow up," she commented. "Serving my community has allowed me to become a better person, a more humble person, and I am eternally grateful for that."

Madding plans to spend her retirement getting much deserved rest and with her grandkids.

"We are very appreciative of the hard work and dedication Madding has provided the department over the years. The foundation she laid for female firefighters in this community is solid and she will be missed," said Chief Cumbey Gaines.



***Madding was also named Firefighter of the Month for August 2014 in recognition of her 32 years of service to the department and her retirement.***

## MFRD RECEIVES CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FROM TFACA

In July, Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department received a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Tennessee Fire & Codes Enforcement Academy for "demonstrating a commitment and dedication to firefighter training and safety."

Pictured (L to R) are Captain/Shift Training Officer Terry Smith, Fire/Medical Training Coordinator Nicole Miller, Assistant Chief-Training Allen Swader, and Captain/Shift Training Officer Mike Keith.

Two of MFRD's retirees also helped MFRD to achieve this recognition from TFACA: Training Coordinator Billy Vinson and Captain/Shift Training Officer Bob Decker.



**Congrats to MFRD's Training Division!**



# MFRD IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 12TH SESSION OF CITIZENS FIRE ACADEMY

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department is now accepting applications for the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Citizens Fire Academy (CFA).

The six week course will begin Tuesday, September 16, and will continue through Tuesday, October 28, skipping October 7 due to the scheduled fall break of area schools.

The CFA offers a small group of area residents the opportunity to view and participate in the activities and services provided by the MFRD. Academy participants will receive an insider's view of MFRD operations. Students will have the opportunity to participate in activities such as: wearing turnout gear, climbing a 65' aerial, using extrication equipment, victim search and rescue using GPS, and much more (all activities are optional). The academy will conclude with a graduation ceremony, where class members will receive a certificate of completion.



Students in the CFA Class of 2013 learn about Thermal Imaging Cameras from Instructors Clay Walls and Titus Jackson.

Students in last year's class were asked for feedback. A few of the comments shared were:

"I enjoyed climbing the 65' ladder. I also thought learning how to use GPS was interesting."

"The information on how fires travel and how hot they become really had my interest."

"The tower truck ride was my favorite event. Turnouts really do give a sense of the apparel weight and protection."

MFRD Administrative Assistant Laurie Alsup has been overseeing the academy since its inception in 2000. "The CFA is a unique opportunity for citizens to experience what firefighters do on a daily basis and learn about the new technical rescue services the department provides. Students also become more familiar with fire safety and can share that information with family and friends."

**It is important to mention that the Citizens Fire Academy is in no way job related. Completing the academy has no bearing on employment with the City or MFRD.**

The cost of the class is \$35.00. Class size is limited and the deadline for application submission is September 2. Applications can be obtained at Fire Administration located at 220 NW Broad Street or any MFRD fire station. They can also be obtained online at: [www.murfreesborotn.gov/fireacademy](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/fireacademy). For more information, contact MFRD Administration at 615-893-1422.



Class of 2013 students take a ride on the fire apparatus.

## PERSONNEL RECEIVE LETTER OF RECOGNITION FROM CITIZEN

Captain Terrence Thomas, Driver Kyle Cobb, and Firefighters Rob Odom and Joshua Warren (Ladder 6/C-Shift) were out in territory flowing hydrants on July 5, when a four year old little girl became interested in the fire truck. According to a letter from the child's grandfather, she became excited when she saw the fire truck so he took her outside to "watch from a distance." "Mr. Thomas realized this was a great opportunity to allow children from the neighborhood to get pictures and see a fire truck in action," he said. "The crew was extremely nice...and gave the children red, plastic fire hats," he continued. "The employees went 'over and beyond' the call of duty. They took a few minutes to do very good community relations."

The crew also received a letter of thanks from City Manager Rob Lyons for "continuing to create a better quality of life."





**“SMILE FOR THE CAMERA”  
MFRD’S SPECIAL EVENTS  
TEAM SCOUTS NEW  
FIREFIGHTING TALENT AT UNCLE  
DAVE MACON DAYS**



**August  
Anniversaries**

**34 YEARS**  
Cumbey Gaines

**28 YEARS**  
Tony Lehw

**24 YEARS**  
Mike Adams  
Jimmy Barrett  
Mark King  
Rob Vaughter  
David Wade  
Clay Walls

**23 YEARS**  
Terrence Thomas

**15 YEARS**  
Bobby Brewer

**14 YEARS**  
Anthony Cayll  
Paul Diawara  
Doug English  
Chris Mikolon



If you notice MFRD personnel providing exemplary service, displaying professionalism, or representing the City of Murfreesboro in a positive light, please share your experience by nominating them for a Service Excellence Stars Award.

Click here for more information or to [Nominate a STAR.](#)

